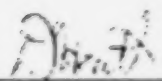


OCTOPUS ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

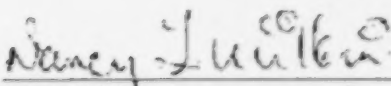
February 2003

Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb 27, 2003



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 11, 2003

OCTOPUS ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Octopus Islands Park is to provide a marine recreation experience for boaters traveling the Inside Passage. The Inside Passage is a popular route for long distance boaters heading to the North Coast or Alaska and safe anchorages with a natural setting have been established for this purpose. Octopus Islands is also part of the BC Marine Trail Association network, which is a series of campsites, resting areas and safe havens designed and cared for by recreational kayakers and boaters. Once connected, this marine trail will extend from Vancouver to Prince Rupert and down into Puget Sound.

Located on the northeast side of Quadra Island, this 748 hectare park protects Waiatt Bay and Bodega Anchorage. Recreational opportunities include swimming, hiking, fishing, scuba diving, kayaking, boating, canoeing, camping, and nature appreciation. The park includes a portage trail to Small Inlet on the west side of Quadra Island, which is also a provincial park. From the portage trail, a hiking trail leads to Newton Lake, where swimming opportunities exist. Access to Octopus Islands Park is by boat only, and wilderness camping is allowed but no facilities are provided.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to protect the natural environment in which people come to recreate. Although this protected area is relatively small, Octopus Islands Park makes a contribution to the representation of the under-represented Coastal Western Hemlock xm2 biogeoclimatic variant, which has only 4% protected provincially. This ecosystem has been highly modified and not much remains intact.

Octopus Islands Park also contributes 2% to the representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecoregion (OUF) and 5% to the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecoregion (JS), both of which are under-represented in the protected area system.

The marine portion of the park (441 ha) with its numerous bays and islets serves as habitat for harbour seals, harbour porpoises, marine invertebrates, groundfish, salmon, and octopi.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Encroachment on park with the installation of a wharf and dock facility by a private landholder	➤ Work with land owner to legalize access to property.
Potential development of private land and impacts on park values including portage route	➤ Pursue acquisition of private land between Waiatt Bay and Small Inlet to complete and protect portage route.
Impacts on upland ecosystem as a result of increasing camping use	➤ Monitor impacts and develop camping site when impacts reach unacceptable levels.
Impacts on water quality in anchorage by boat sewage	➤ Work with DFO to establish a no dumping regulation. ➤ Develop and implement a water quality monitoring

	program. ➤ Increase public awareness through signage and website about impacts of dumping. ➤ Monitor levels of use and develop sanitation facilities when deemed necessary.
Lack of park awareness and its boundaries	➤ Develop educational materials and enhance website to inform the public about the park and its boundaries. ➤ Ensure that park boundaries are signed and are on marine charts.
Lack of knowledge of marine and cultural values	➤ Undertake research to identify and assess marine values. ➤ Undertake cultural inventory and traditional use study of whole park in conjunction with First Nations.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park (748 ha). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation
- ecosection

- ☒ Octopus Islands Park makes a small contribution of 2.1% to the under-represented Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which has only 3.3% protected provincially.

It also makes the 5th largest contribution at 4.7% to the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which has only 3.7% protected.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- ☒ Octopus Islands Park makes a small contribution of 1.6% to the overall representation of CWHxm2, which has only 4.13% protected. Any representation of this ecosystem is important due to its fragmented nature and the limited opportunities available for protection.

Special Feature

- ☒ Octopus habitat; fast water

Rare/Endangered Values

- ☐ None known at this time

Scientific/Research Opportunities

- ☐ None known at this time

Recreation

Representation

backcountry
destination

- ☐ Not Applicable
☒ Kayakers, small boaters; multi-day safe anchorage

travel corridor

- ☒ Part of Inside Passage route; marine trail for kayakers

local recreation

- ☐ Low level of use

Special Opportunities

- ☐ None known at this time

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- ☐ None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation

- ☒ Settlement patterns

Special Feature

- ☒ Archaeological sites - middens

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations

- ☐ Not Applicable

Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas and anchorages along the Inside Passage; part of the BC Marine Trail network
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster, intertidal clams
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Impact of recreation on upland sensitive ecosystems; development of private islands that lie inside the park
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy; a 251 hectare park addition as a result of recommendations in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

Area: 748 hectares (307 ha upland; 441 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: March 26, 1974

Zoning Map - Octopus Islands Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

Produced in Feb 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

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